AMENDMENTS TO THE Specification

1. Please amend paragraph [0001] of the published application to:

[0001] The present invention concerns a blood testing apparatus ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~, an instrument for its operation and a method for operating the apparatus.

2. Please amend paragraph [0013] of the published application to:

[0013] To fulfill this object, the present invention proposes the disposable apparatus having the characterizing features, ~~stated in appended claim 1. Advantageous embodiments are stated in the depending claims 2-7. An~~ an instrument for controlling the apparatus ~~is stated in claim 8~~ and a method of controlling the apparatus ~~is stated in claim 9~~, as defined in the appended claims.

3. Please amend paragraph [0042] of the published application to:

[0042] In FIG. 3 is shown the preparatory or transport position of the cartridge 20. In advance, a well-defined volume, typically 2 ml, of a liquid diluting agent D_1 has been filled into the receptacle 33 having a capacity of typically 3 ml. Likewise, a well-defined volume, typically 2 ml, of a liquid diluting agent D_2 has been filled into the receptacle 30 also having a capacity of typically 3 ml. The diluting agents are typically an isotonic sodium chloride solution. Furthermore, a well-defined volume, typically 2 ml of a liquid haemolysis agent H has been filled into the receptacle 32, typically having a capacity of 2 ml. (It should be noted here, that a dry haemolysis agent may be used as an alternative.) Finally, the receptacle 31, typically having a capacity of 3 ml, is filled with a washing liquid, typically isotonic sodium chloride solution. The receptacles 29 and [[30]] 28, each typically having a capacity of 1 ml, are empty.

4. Please amend paragraph [0047] of the published application to:

[0047] The flow back and forth is repeated until a proper mixing is ensured. When the first mixing step is completed, a defined volume of first step diluted sample ($S+D_1$) remains within the valve slide channel 55. This is due to the typical volume relations between the receptacles 28 and 33, that ensures that the receptacle 33 will never be emptied. With the typical volumes stated, the dilution ~~rate~~ ratio after the first step is 1:200.

5. Please amend paragraph [0051] of the published application to:

[0051] A first part takes place between receptacles 29 and 30. The diluting liquid D.sub.2 in the receptacle 30 is caused to flow through the channel [[35]] 36, into the slide channel 55 displacing the entrapped volume of first stage diluted sample, through the channel [[36]] 35 and into the originally empty receptacle 29.

6. Please amend paragraph [0053] of the published application to:

[0053] A second part takes place between the receptacles 28, 32 and 33, the receptacles 28 and 33 both containing the first step diluted sample ($S+D_1$) and the receptacle 32 containing a haemolysis agent H. The liquids are caused to flow back and forth between the three receptacles until a proper mixing is ensured. In case the haemolysis agent is dry, it will be successively dissolved during the repeated flushing of the receptacle 32. The second part of the second mixing step is stopped with a main portion of the mixture ($S+D_1+H$) remaining within the receptacle 33. This mixture has a dilution ~~rate~~ ratio of 1:400 with the typical volumes stated, and is for white blood cell testing.

7. Please amend paragraph [0054] of the published application to:

[0054] The housing 21 is preferably made from a translucent synthetic resin. This enables the provision of a light path 64 through the housing. A portion of the receptacle 33 is formed with a recess 65 having an accurately defined length and parallel end walls 66, 67. The recess extends diagonally across a corner of the housing 21, and the walls 22 and 25 of the housing are formed with planar wall portions 68, [[69]] 68', parallel to the respective end wall 66, 67. The light path further includes a light source 69, preferably a light diode, and a light sensor 70. The light path enables photometric determination of certain parameters of the liquid contained in the receptacle 33, such as, initially, a reference value of the diluting liquid and the opposed walls of the recess 65, and then certain values of the final mixture.

8. Please amend paragraph [0060] of the published application to:

[0060] In the start position of measurement, the conduits 71, 72, and possibly also the conduit 90, are filled with a liquid, typically the same isotonic sodium chloride solution as that used in receptacles 30 and 31. The valves 88, 89 and 87 are closed, whereas the valves 79, 80 and 84 are opened. The pump 85 is started to withdraw liquid from the receptacles 30 and 33. When the liquid originally in the conduits 71 and 72 reach the respective counting start detector 81a, 82a, counting in the orifices 75, 76 is started. At that time, liquid from the respective receptacle 30, [[31]] 33 has reached the orifices.